

PROCEEDINGS
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AN ADDITIONAL FORM OF PEPPER-SHRIKE
FROM WESTERN PANAMÁ

BY ALEXANDER WETMORE

During study of specimens of *Cyclarhis gujanensis* from northern Colombia and Panamá there has come to attention an interesting, handsomely colored race, found along the base of the eastern side of the Azuero Peninsula in western Panamá, that is new to science. It may be known as

Cyclarhis gujanensis perrygoi subsp. nov.

Characters.—Similar to *C. g. nicaraguae*,¹ but with yellow of under surface brighter, especially on sides and flanks; upper surface brighter green; crown with the brown wash deeper in color.

Description.—Type, U. S. Nat. Mus. no. 400,660, male, from Ciénaga Macana, near El Rincón, Province of Herrera, Panamá, taken March 17, 1948, by A. Wetmore and W. M. Perrygo (orig. no. 13,896). Forehead and a broad band extending back on either side of the pileum, with a narrow line on the lower eyelid, russet; lores (extending to the eye to break the russet on the lower eyelid), sides of head and upper neck light neutral gray; crown and nape deep olive, with the feathers tipped very narrowly with russet, producing a brownish wash; back and wing-coverts between warbler green and olive-green; rump and upper tail-coverts warbler green; exposed surface of secondaries and remiges olive-green; secondaries and primaries with inner webs dark mouse gray, and outer webs between warbler green and olive-green; rectrices olive-green; chin, extreme upper throat, and center of abdomen white; under tail-coverts citron yellow; rest of under surface strontian yellow, becoming lemon yellow on the lower breast and flanks; under wing-coverts and edge of wing lemon yellow; inner webs of primaries edged with strontian yellow. Maxilla bister, becoming grayish olive on the sides near the tip, a color that extends down on the tip of the mandible; rest of mandible plumbeous black; tarsus, toes and claws dull army brown.

Measurements.—Males (7 specimens), wing 69.6-74.9 (72.6), tail 50.0-55.5 (53.1), culmen from base 17.3-19.7 (18.6), tarsus 22.2-23.0 (22.5) mm.

Females (3 specimens), wing 70.5-76.0 (72.3), tail 51.4-54.9 (53.3), culmen from base 17.8-18.7 (18.2), tarsus 22.8-23.4 (23.1) mm.

Type, male, wing 73.1, tail 54.2, culmen from base 18.1, tarsus 22.6 mm.

Range.—In western Panamá from southern Coelé (Aguadulce) south through the Province of Herrera (El Rincón, Parita), and west in the drainage of the Río Santa María into extreme east central Veraguas (El Villano, 15 miles southeast of Santiago). Sight records assumed to be

¹*Cyclarhis flaviventris nicaraguae* Miller and Griscom, Amer. Mus. Nov. no. 183, July 18, 1925, p. 6. (Matagalpa, 2,200 feet elevation, Nicaragua.)

this race from Santa María, Quebrada Tejel and Quebrada Chitrabé to the south and west of Pesé, and El Barrero, Province of Herrera.

Remarks.—In the lowland, dry area of the eastern side of the Azuero Peninsula in western Panamá these birds are local in distribution, though not uncommon within the range outlined above. It is probable that they extend through tracts of scattered forest in hilly areas south through the Province of Los Santos, though there are no records at hand at present to substantiate this. The bright coloration of this new form is strikingly different from that of *Cyclarhis gujanensis subflavescens* Cabanis, found in the Provinces of Veraguas and Chiriquí to the west, the transition between these two forms in the lowlands east of Santiago, Veraguas, apparently being along the low watershed between the Río Santa María of Coclé, Herrera and extreme eastern Veraguas, which flows into the Gulf of Panamá, and the Río Martín Grande, with its tributaries, which empties into the Gulf of Montijo. A specimen from El Villano, in the drainage of the Santa María, is easily recognized as *C. g. perrygoi*, while another from La Colorada on a tributary of the Martín Grande, while somewhat intermediate, is to be placed with *subflavescens*.

This new form is named for Watson M. Perrygo of the U. S. National Museum, my friend and companion on many days afield in Panamá and elsewhere, who shot the first of our specimens of it.

While pepper-shrikes seem to be common in suitable places in Veraguas and Chiriquí there are few reports of them through the area of the isthmus to the eastward. On March 9 and 10, 1949 I found one singing on Barro Colorado Island in the Canal Zone, and in April I noted a few in the brush-covered hills near the east bank of the Río Mamoní at Chepo in the Province of Panamá. But in neither of these localities was I able to obtain specimens so that there is no certainty as to race. Bond and de Schauensee² record a specimen taken at Garachiné, Darién, April 25, 1941, but state that the specimen was in too bad condition to determine accurately. This bird can not be located at the present moment for new examination, but, as in the original notes it is reported to be unlike *subflavescens* and more on the order of *flaviventris* and *nicaraguae*, it seems possible that it is like the new form here described. I did not find Pepper-shrikes on the Pacific side of eastern Darién in 1946 and 1947.

The two specimens known of *Cyclarhis gujanensis coibae* Hartert, from Coiba Island off the Pacific coast of western Panamá, now in the American Museum of Natural History, are decidedly darker above than either *subflavescens* or *perrygoi*, the green having an olive cast, the crown being deeper brown, and the foreneck, breast, sides and flanks definitely greenish yellow, paler only on the lower breast and upper abdomen. The under tail-coverts are white. The type specimen of *coibae*, while fully grown and in full post-juvenal plumage, is a bird of the year, as is shown by the uniformly colored bill. The second specimen, the only other known at present, is a fully adult male, as is indicated by the lower mandible which is blackish except at the tip. The color of the plumage is similar to that of the type. A specimen in the American Museum (No. 505,408) collected on Jicarón Island, immediately to the south of Coiba, cannot be distinguished from *subflavescens* of Chiriquí, which is a strange circumstance since Coiba Island, from which *C. g. coibae* is described, lies between Jicarón and the mainland where *subflavescens* is found.

²Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, Mon. no. 6, 1944, p. 40.